

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 19, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 6 to 12 are all the claims pending in the application, prior to the present amendment.

Claims 6-9, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tseng et al.

Applicants submit that Tseng et al do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter of claims 6 to 9, 11 and 12 and, accordingly, request withdrawal of this rejection.

The present invention as set forth in claim 6 is directed to a process for producing an N-vinyl compound polymer which comprises containing an organic base in an N-vinyl compound polymer to regulate pH of the polymer.

Tseng et al disclose a process for purifying vinyl lactam polymers by diminishing residual monomers.

As the purpose of diminishing the residual monomers, Tseng et al merely note toxicity and odor (see, e.g., col. 1, lines 16-17), and do not provide any disclosure concerning the applications or uses of the vinyl lactam polymers other than to state that they can be used in pharmaceutical and cosmetic applications.

In contrast, the present specification discloses that N-vinyl compound polymers “are extensively used in various fields such as medicines, cosmetics, pressure sensitive and other

adhesives, coatings, dispersants, inks and electronic parts.” Page 1, lines 18-20. The present invention has been made to produce a polymer that is applicable to all of these applications.

Among these applications, the use of an organic base particularly exerts its effects in “coatings” and “electronic parts”.

Referring to the application to a “coating”, when an N-vinyl compound polymer obtained by the present invention is used in a solvent-type coating composition, it does not generate an insoluble matter. However, an N-vinyl compound polymer obtained using an inorganic base may cause precipitation of an insoluble matter.

Referring to the application to “electronic parts”, the use of an N-vinyl compound polymer obtained according to the present invention does not cause a problem in insulating property, whereas an N-vinyl compound polymer obtained using an inorganic base may cause an insulation failure problem.

The Examiner considers it obvious to employ an organic base in view of the teaching of Tseng et al. However, as shown above, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to change an inorganic base to an organic base in the absence of a great deal of familiarity with the respective applications.

Further, applicants have added new claims 13 and 14 which recite that the organic base comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, guanidine carbonate and dihydrazide adipate.

As disclosed at page 15, lines 19 to 24 of the specification, pH regulation with these bases is easy and they have a high boiling point and, therefore, cause no decrease in pH upon drying.

Tseng et al do not contain any disclosure or suggestion of the use of these organic bases.

In view of the above, applicants submit that Tseng et al do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter of claims 6 to 9, 11 and 12 and new claims 13 and 14, and, accordingly, request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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